United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council welcomes decision by the United Nations Iraqi-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission to consider Eastern section at its next session and to demarcate that part as soon as possible.

+ Security Council, in second meeting this afternoon, votes unanimously to reaffirm that present status quo in Cyprus talks is "not acceptable"; calls on Secretary-General to recommend "alternative courses of action", should agreement not emerge from talks in October.

+ Secretary-General, in address to London Conference on Former Yugoslavia, calls upon regional organizations to help resolve Yugoslav crisis; British Prime Minister, in his statement, warns of increasing pressure and isolation for those who do not "accept negotiation".

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses concern over the recent reports on deterioration of situation in Nagorno-Karabakh resulting in heavy loss of human life and material damage.

+ Secretary-General recommends deployment of 3,500 United Nations security personnel in Somalia, including 500-men unit already authorized by Security Council.

+ Russian Federation, in letter deploring death of two Ukranian peace-keepers in Sarajevo, urges Security Council to take action to ensure safety and security of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia.

+ Morocco informs Secretary-General that it is about to adopt new *Constitution by referendum and to hold local and national elections.

+ Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations adopts report dealing with a comprehensive review of the question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council today welcomed the decision of the United Nations Iraqi-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission to consider the Eastern section of the boundary, which includes the offshore boundary, at its next session. The Council urged the Commission to demarcate that part of the boundary as soon as possible and thus complete its work.

The Council took that action by adopting resolution 773 (1992) by a recorded vote of 14 in favour, none against, and one abstention (Ecuador). The Council underlined its guarantee of the inviolability of the international boundary and its decision to take as appropriate all necessary measures to that end, in accordance with the Charter, as provided for in paragraph 4 of resolution 687 (1991). It also welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to carry out, as soon as possible, the realignment of the demilitarized zone referred to in resolution 687 to correspond to the international boundary demarcated by the Commission, with the consequent removal of the Iraqi police posts.

By its resolution, the Council urged the two States concerned to cooperate fully with the work of the Commission.

Alexander F. Watson, Acting United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said his country strongly supported the resolution on the work of the Demarcation Commission. As the resolution stated, he said "through the demarcation process, the Commission is not reallocating territory between Kuwait and Iraq, but is simply carrying out the technical task necessary to demarcate for the first time the precise coordinations of the boundary".

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The Security Council this afternoon voted unanimously to reaffirm its position that a Cyprus settlement must be based on "a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities ...in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation". The Council urged that such a settlement must exclude "union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession".

Under the resolution adopted, the Council further endorsed the Set of Ideas proposed by the Secretary-General, agreeing that those Ideas, as an integrated whole, have now been sufficiently developed "to enable the two sides to reach an overall agreement". It urged the parties to resume their face-to-face talks with the Secretary-General on 26 October and to pursue uninterrupted negotiations until an overall framework agreement is reached on the basis of the entire Set of Ideas.

The Council further reaffirmed its position that the Secretary-General convene, following the satisfactory conclusion of the face-to-face talks, a high-level international meeting chaired by him to conclude an overall framework agreement, in which the two communities and Greece and Turkey would participate.

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The Council said it expected that an overall framework agreement would be concluded in 1992, and that 1993 would be the transitional period during which the measures set out in the annex to the Set of Ideas would be implemented. It reaffirmed that the present status quo was "not acceptable" and, should an agreement not emerge from the talks in October, called on the Secretary-General to identify the reasons for the failure and to recommend to the Council alternative courses of action to resolve the Cyprus problem.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called on the International Conference on the Former Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, which began in London this morning, to "bring about urgent cooperation between the regional arrangements and agencies of Europe", including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the United Nations Security Council.

In his address to the two-day Conference, the Secretary-General emphasized that the United Nations mission in former Yugoslavia with its present mandate, "cannot by itself bring this crisis to an end or to a durable political solution. More, much more, is urgently required", he said. He added that "the expectations of the international community" continued to exceed the resources and capacity of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The United Nations soldiers in Sarajevo had suffered casualties and hardship and remained vulnerable to attack both at the airport and on the hillsides around the city.

As increasingly was becoming true for other United Nations missions, the Secretary-General went on, "the success of the operation depends on the cooperation of irregular forces of the conflicting parties". That situation was presenting the United Nations operations with an unprecedented set of problems, such as the lack of a clear chain of command; the inability of various factions and groups to make an agreement or to keep one; and suspicion and bitter hostility toward external attempts to stop the bloodshed and to restore peace.

The challenge of the Yugoslav conflict, he said, was for the international community to find a formula through which diversity could be respected, yet government may serve a common purpose and enjoy a common allegiance.

Pointing to the two draft statements on Serbia and Bosnia, respectively, which the Conference is expected to adopt, British Prime Minister John Major, in his address, said "it would be an encouraging sign" if all Yugoslav parties present, including Serbia, were prepared to subscribe to those statements.

The different former Yugoslav delegations, and in particular Serbia and Montenegro, must ask themselves, Mr. Major said, whether they wished to be considered as part of Europe and the world community. If so, that meant accepting the standards of the rest of Europe and of the world community.

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For those who did not accept negotiation, he warned, "the pressure will inexorably increase" with condemnation and isolation. Parties who stood in the way of agreement could expect even tougher sanctions, no trade and no aid. "No international recognition or role. Economic, cultural, political and diplomatic isolation", he said.

The London Conference on former Yugoslavia is being co-chaired by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Prime Minister Major.
Document S/24480

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The members of the Security Council today expressed their deep concern over recent reports on the deterioration of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh which had resulted in heavy loss of human life and widespread material damage.

In a statement issued by Council President, Li Daoyu (China), the Council strongly appealed to all parties and others concerned for an immediate cease-fire and expressed support for the efforts of the Minsk Conference on the question of Nagorno-Karabakh, within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) as well as the preparatory negotiations held in Rome.

The statement urged all parties to cooperate closely with the CSCE and to participate positively in the negotiations, with a view to reaching a peaceful settlement of their disputes as early as possible.

Noting that the Secretary-General had dispatched fact-finding missions to the region and was ready to send observers to the above CSCE negotiations, the Council said it would consider further the role of the United Nations in Nagorno-Karabakh in the light of the development of the situation in the area.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended the deployment of 3,500 United Nations security personnel in Somalia, including the unit of 500 soldiers whose deployment in Mogadishu the Security Council has already authorized.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 24 August, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of four zone headquarters of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and the deployment of four additional security units, each with a strength of up to 750. The first two will serve in Bossasso and the south-west. The others will be deployed in Berbera and Kismayu.

While stressing the need to break the vicious cycle of insecurity and hunger, the Secretary-General said a stronger United Nations role in securing transport and distribution of relief supplies must be paralleled by an effort to involve Somali entities fully in all aspects of this process.

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There must be a comprehensive programme of action covering humanitarian relief, the cessation of hostilities, the reduction of organized and unorganized violence, and national reconciliation, he said. However, such United Nations assistance would have to be contingent upon conditions that would ensure the neutrality of such forces: agreement by all relevant local authorities on the need for a unified local police force and on a neutral command structure, recruitment based on objective criteria and external monitoring.

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The Russian Federation has urged the Security Council to take decisive measures to ensure the safety and security of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel in Yugoslavia.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Yuliy Vorontsov, the Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said the Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo was in a disturbing situation. Two of its members had already been killed and eight wounded, and equipment had been destroyed and damaged. There were losses among the troops from other countries also.

The Russian Ambassador emphasized in his letter that respect for the neutral status of the United Nations "blue helmets" was vital to the effective conduct of peace-keeping operations. "Those who violate this principle are issuing a challenge to the United Nations and to the civilized standards accepted in universal practice", he wrote.

In a related development, the Ukrainian Permanent Mission to the United Nations protested today the "latest events in Sarajevo", where the Ukranian battalion of the United Nations peace-keeping forces suffered new losses. According to a statement issued by the Mission, the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, said "direct, provocative strafing of UNPROFOR military servicemen" was a gross violation of the principles and norms of international law and could be considered by the States which dispatched their contingents to the United Nations peace-keeping forces as "hostile acts against their citizens".

The Presidium urged the Secretary-General and the Security Council to use the highest authority and means of the United Nations to carry out Council's resolution 770 (1992) in order to guarantee the maximum security for the Ukrainian battalion of the United Nations forces. Failing this, "Ukraine reserves the right to reconsider the further status of the Ukranian battalion in the conflicting zone", concluded the statement.

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The Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has informed the Secretary-General that his Government is about to adopt a new Constitution by referendum, and to hold local and national elections.

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In a letter, dated 21 August, the Moroccan Minister, Abdellatif Filali, said he wished to make it clear that the holding of the constitutional referendum and the national elections "cannot in any way whatsoever be linked, either closely or remotely, to the projected referendum under the United Nations Settlement Plan, because of the radically different nature and objectives of the two consultations".

At the same time, Mr. Filali wrote, he wished to reaffirm to the Secretary-General Morocco's standing commitment to continued full cooperation with the United Nations so that the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) can be carried out under the best possible conditions, and all facets of the Settlement Plan can be put into effect.

Talks to reactivate the settlement plan for the territory resumed yesterday in New York under the auspices of the Secretary-General's Special Representative Yaqub-Khan. The two sides participating in the talks are the Government of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO).

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The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations yesterday adopted a report dealing with a comprehensive review of the question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects. The report details the discussions of the Special Committee, conducted in an open-ended working group, on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace".

According to the report, members of the Special Committee shared the Secretary-General's view that the General Assembly had an important role to play for the maintenance of international peace and security. They stressed the need for greater communication and dialogue between the Security Council and the Assembly on those questions.

Regarding the financing of peace-keeping operations, many delegations reportedly shared the Secretary-General's concern over the growing disparity between the ever-rising demand for peace-keeping operations and the financial resources available for them.

The report will be presented to the General Assembly at its forthcoming forty-seventh session.

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27 August 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in London, announces plan to enlarge mandate and strength of United Nations Protection Force to enable it to provide support to UNHCR-organized humanitarian relief convoys throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Concluding second day of London Conference on former Yugoslavia, Secretary-General and British Prime Minister announce establishment of high-level steering committee which will meet 3 September in Geneva to maintain "momentum in favour of peace".

+ Russia informs Security Council that it will support "all necessary means against Iraq" to ensure implementation of United Nations decisions on post-crisis settlement in Persian Gulf.

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A detailed plan for the protection of humanitarian relief convoys throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently being prepared by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in consultation with his staff and a number of Governments.

According to a statement by the Secretary-General's Spokesman made at press conference in London today, the Secretary-General intends to submit a report to the Security Council next week recommending that the mandate and strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be enlarged to enable it to assist convoys organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which provide food and essential supplies in all parts of the Republic. UNPROFOR would implement this new mandate in accordance with the established principles and practices of United Nations peace-keeping.

The statement said discussions were continuing with a number of Member States who had expressed readiness to contribute military personnel, equipment and logistic support for the expansion of UNPROFOR operations. The Secretary-General is asking Member States to provide such contributions at no cost to the United Nations.

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Also present at the press conference in London, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, told correspondents that the enlargement of UNPROFOR could not be interpreted as "military intervention". It was merely a protection of UNHCR convoys in conformity with the Security Council's resolution 770 (1992). The number of troops envisaged for this function would be "substantial", Mr. Goulding added; he was unable however to provide specific numbers at this time.

Asked about offers by the United Kingdom and France to contribute 1,800 and 1,100 troops, respectively, and similar offers from Spain and Canada, the Under-Secretary-General said those offers would be tailored to the needs of the new Force.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the press today in London at the end of the second day of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, that the Conference had created "a new momentum in favour of peace". In order to maintain that momentum, he said, the Conference would "remain in being until a final settlement of the Yugoslav problem " had been found.

In addition, a high-level steering committee had been set up under the joint chairmanship of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Cyrus Vance, and the representative of the European Community, David Owen. The Committee, which will meet on 3 September in Geneva, would be composed by representatives of the European Community (EC), the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the five Permanent Members of the Security Council, and neighbouring countries to former Yugoslavia, as well as a representative of the Islamic Conference. Six working groups had also been established to deal with issues including Bosnia and Herzegovina; humanitarian relief assistance; nationality and minority; succession; economic issues; confidence and security-building measure.

In his statement to the press, British Prime Minister John Major said he believed the Conference had, over the last few days, "achieved significant results". The first result, he said, was the new negotiations for a settlement, beginning in Geneva next week, under the chairmanship of the United Nations and the European Community. The talks would be on the basis of clear principles to which all participants, without exception, had subscribed. That meant, he said, that "the Yugoslav parties have pledged themselves before the rest of the world to a code of conduct".

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Russia has informed the Security Council that it will support "all necessary means against Iraq" to ensure implementation of the United Nations decisions on post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf.

In a statement transmitted through a letter to the Council President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation said the refusal of the

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Government of Iraq "conscientiously and fully to discharge its obligations" under the Council's resolutions constituted a "serious threat to the security of a region directly adjacent to Russia's southern borders".

Baghdad was "waging war against its own people in the south and maintaining an economic blockade of the northern regions of Iraq", the statement said. The Iraqi Government was refusing to cooperate with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission and was blocking efforts of the United Nations to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people.

In addition, "anti-United Nations hysteria" was being deliberately stirred up in the country, "sometimes to the point of open threats against the personal safety of United Nations inspectors", the statement said. Document S/24483.

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28 August 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council holds consultations concerning Secretary-General's recommendations to deploy 3,500 United Nations security personnel in Somalia at estimated cost of $129.2 million for six-month period; two United Nations military observers wounded by gunfire in southern part of Mogadishu.

+ Secretary-General confers with top aides in London following Conference on former Yugoslavia.

+ Repatriation-rate of Cambodians from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia is rising steadily, according to UNHCR; 100,000 Cambodians have returned home since 30 March.

+ Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference ends in Bali with adoption of Declaration urging countries in region to incoorporate population and environment into efforts to achieve sustainable development.

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon on the addendum to the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Somalia, dated 28 August, which contains his cost estimates for the establishment of four operational zones and for a 3,500-man increase in the strength of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

The Secretary-General wrote in his addendum, that should the Security Council agree to the proposed increase in the strength of UNOSOM, it was estimated that the overall cost, for a six month period beginning 1 September through 28 February 1993, would amount to some $129.2 million. Thereafter, it was estimated that the monthly cost would be approximately $12.1 million. The Secretary-General further recommended in the addendum, that the additional cost relating the to enlargement of UNOSOM should be considered an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council was scheduled to hold a formal meeting following consultations.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokeswoman confirmed today that two United Nations military observers had been wounded by gunfire while driving in an unarmed but clearly marked United Nations vehicle in the southern part of Mogadishu.

An Egyptian soldier was shot in the shoulder and a Czechoslovak soldier driving the vehicle had suffered head wounds. A Finnish soldier who was in the vehicle at the time of the attack was not wounded. Both injured soldiers were treated locally before evacuation by plane to Nairobi.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali spent today in London working with his top aides on the follow-up modalities for the implementation of the various documents that came out of the International Conference on the Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which concluded yesterday.

The Secretary-General conferred with Cyrus Vance, Special Representative for Yugoslavia, and Under-Secretaries-General Marrack Goulding and Vladimir Petrovsky. He was also working on the final draft of his annual report to the General Assembly. The meetings will continue throughout the day today and tomorrow (Saturday) before the Secretary-General's leaves for Jakarta, Indonesia, where he will be attending the tenth Summit of the Non-aligned Movement, next week.

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The number of Cambodians repatriated from camps in Thailand and from Indonesia and Malaysia surpassed 100,000 today, marking an important milestone in the voluntary return programme begun by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) five months ago, according to a UNHCR press release today.

A ceremony hosted by the UNHCR and chaired by Norodom Sihanouk, President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, was held when the "Sisophon Express" arrived from the Thai border today with some 1,200 returnees aboard.

Speaking at the ceremony, UNHCR Special Envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello said the Cambodian repatriation programme gave cause for optimism in view of the other humanitarian tragedies confronting the UNHCR around the world.

While approximately 250,000 Cambodian refugees remain in camps outside the country, the rate of repatriation has been rising steadily since the first returnees crossed the Thai-Cambodian border on 30 March. The rate of return is expected to increase even more in November when the rains end.

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In Bali, Indonesia, the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference has ended with the adoption of the "Bali Declaration", which urged countries in the region to "make a firm political and financial commitment fully to incorporate population and environmental concerns into all national efforts to achieve sustainable development".

The nine-day Conference, which began on 19 August, was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to review the region's population situation and to provide Governments with policy guidelines for population and sustainable development into the next century. It was attended by ministers and other high-ranking officials from 36 nations.

Commenting on the Bali Declaration, ESCAP Executive Secretary Rafeeuddin Ahmed said the decisions taken by the Conference had put a strong and unmistakable emphasis on poverty alleviation, the interaction between population, the environment and consumption, and the strategic linkages between population and sustainable development.

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